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meadow. *Sanitary influence,* (1) the claimed influence of greater purity of air does not seem to be significant, (2) protection against sun and wind and consequent absence of extreme conditions seem favorable, (3) the soil conditions of the forest are unfavorable to the production and existence of pathogenic microbes.

THE REPORT of the U. S. Microscopist for 1892 is devoted principally to edible and poisonous mushrooms. There are two other pamphlets sent out with it, being reprints of such parts of the reports for 1885 and 1890 as relate to edible fungi. They contain some very good colored plates and some serviceable information, although as contributions to science they do not rank high, and the accuracy of the statements is not always above criticism.

OPEN LETTERS.

A suggestion in terminology.

The members of the Madison Botanical Congress through their committees on the terminology of morphology and of physiology expressed a desire for some general term that should be applied to the cell which arises from the fusion of two gametes. The word zygote has come to refer only to the product of fusing isogametes, just as oösperm (in the etymologically correct use) refers to the fusion product of heterogametes. For the general term, after much research and deliberation, the compound *syngamete* is offered. The derivation is apparent, and by preserving the word gamete as an integral part of the term, there is little difficulty in respect to comprehensibility. Some such word seems better than one in which the idea of fusion alone should be expressed, for such a word would find proper use in the morphology and physiology of Mycetozoa. But in these it is very doubtful indeed whether the fusing *plasmodiogens* are gametic in their nature. The term is herewith offered for criticism.—CONWAY MAC MILLAN, *University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.*

Introduced plants in the arid region.

I forward the inclosed list to show that though we dwell in the arid region we can show a very fair assortment of introduced plants and shrubs.

The list is made out from what grows on my two lots 100 by 300 feet in our village. The lots are bisected by a small river, the Vasquez Fork of the Platte, and is blessed with abundant moisture in part.

We are in latitude 39° 45′ 24″ north with an altitude of 5,660 feet above the sea. Our yearly rain-fall and melted snow varies from thirteen and one-half to eighteen inches.

Stachys and Deutzia are from Japan, and present no trouble in naturalization, if I permit them to extend.

Sonchus is a late visitor. This plant and Taraxacum threaten to ingulf all the rest, and to supersede Atriplex and Amarantus even in the richest soil. A portion of the two lots I never irrigate. Here the native plants resist all encroachment from introduced species.—E. L. BERTHOUD, *Golden, Colorado.*

[The accompanying list gives the names of sixty-five genera (species not named) of introduced plants. Of these six are indicated as having two species each introduced and one with three species. In addition there are seven of whose introduction there is some doubt.—EDS.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. KARL VON DALLA TORRE has been called to the professorship of botany in the University of Innsbruck.

DR. H. MŒLLER, heretofore *privat-docent* in botany in the philosophical faculty of the University of Greifswald, has been called to a professorship.

THE FLORA of St. Vincent (W. Indies) is catalogued in a recent *Kew Bulletin* (Sept.). In this flora the Leguminosæ largely predominate, with the Gramineæ, Rubiaceæ, Compositæ, and Orchidaceæ following at a wide interval.

THE KEW *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* is being made more· and more valuable to systematists. The July number contains the fifth decade of new plants cultivated at Kew, and the sixth decade of new orchids. The department of Miscellaneous Notes is also to be commended for the current information it contains.

THE SEVENTH annual report of the Botanist of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture is chiefly made up of a preliminary description of the native and introduced grasses of the state, aided by numerous cuts in the text. The species number 154, and a call for the aid of observers throughout the state is made by Dr. Bessey.

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM is the subject of very high praise from George Nicholson, Curator of the Kew Gardens, who recently visited it. His impressions concerning it appear in the *N. Y. Tribune* (Sept. 10th) and are copied in *Gardener's Chronicle* (Oct 7th). It is certainly true that this splended institution is too little known and appreciated in its own country.

DR. FRIEDRICH TRANGATT KUETZING, the distinguished algologist, died at his home in Nordhausen, Saxony, on the ninth of September in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was born at Ritteburg in Thuringia, December 8, 1807, studied at Halle, was made professor of natural science in the Realschule at Nordhausen in 1835, and still retained the position at the time of his death.

UNDER THE LAW of homonyms, Professor E. L. Greene, in *Erythea* (October), proposes the name *Forsellesia* for *Glossopetalon* Gray, (1853), not Schreber (1789), and *Bourdonia* for *Keerlia* Gray (1852), not DC.